Francis Phillip Neary

EL DORADO - Francis Phillip Neary, 89, of El Dorado, died Monday, Feb. 28, 2005, at his home.

He was born on Sept. 13, 1915 to Anthony and Catherine (Delaney) Neary in Frontenac.

He lived in Frontenac until drafted in the army on March 30, 1942. He fought in World War II as an infantry soldier in Company A, 357 Regiment of the 90th Infantry Division- known as the "Tough Ombres". On June 8, 1944 he landed on Utah Beach as part of the Normandy invasion. He was wounded in action on June 11, 1944 and sent to a hospital in England. Upon returning to France, he was injured again. He received two Purple Hearts for his valor, and later wrote a book "I Returned to Utah Beach" about his experiences.

He returned to Kansas and began college at Kansas Teachers College. He graduated with a degree in accounting in 1954.

On June 4, 1954, he married Mary Hamilton. She preceded him in death on Dec. 16, 1997. They moved to Wichita where he worked for the Boeing Company as a cost accountant, until his retirement.

Survivors include his son, David Vance Neary of Maui, Hawaii; daughters, Elizabeth Masters of El Dorado, and Maggie Baxter of Ozark, Mo.; brother, William D. Neary of Frontenac; sister, Sally Porter of Bedford, Ind.; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Rosaleen Magnani, Mary Staffers, and Patricia Mason; and grandson, Bryan Dale Masters.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2005, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Fr. Robert McElwee as celebrant. Burial will follow in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Frontenac where the Frontenac American Legion Post No. 43 will provide flag folding presentation. The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday at Friskel Funeral Home, where a rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Friends may call the funeral home after 4 p.m. today. E-mail condolences may be sent to admin@friskel.kscoxmail.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Friskel Funeral Home, 230 E. McKay St., Frontenac.

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